

Opportunity Title: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Turfgrass Agronomy and Genetics

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-PWA-2025-0209

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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How to Apply *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click **APPLY**.*

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

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Application Deadline 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description *Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.

ARS Office/Lab and Location: A research opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), located in Maricopa, Arizona.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table. ARS will deliver cutting-edge, scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people; sustain our nation's agroecosystems and natural resources; and ensure the economic competitiveness and excellence of our agriculture. The vision of the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

Research Project: The Water Management and Conservation Research Unit at the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Maricopa, Arizona seeks applications for a Post-Doctoral Fellow to investigate turfgrass agronomy, physiology, and genetics of different turfgrass species for improved drought, heat and salinity tolerance, and how turfgrass quality attributes contribute to ecosystem services.

The fellow will participate as a member of the turfgrass breeding and agronomy team. Under the guidance of a mentor, the fellow will help with



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planning and execution of growth chamber, greenhouse, and field experiments, conduct statistical analyses, interpret results, and publish research results in peer reviewed journals. The participant will be involved in the design of field trials, planting field trials, superimposition of stress factors, collection and analysis of visual and proximal-sensing data. The participant will also help with screening diverse turfgrass germplasm for adaptation, color and quality traits, and environmental stress tolerance that will lead to the development of improved cultivars.

Learning Objectives: The participant will gain experience in field and controlled environment research, including experimental design, breadth of data collection and analysis. They will also learn how to use and maintain equipment for measuring gas exchange, image and spectral data collection and analysis, and the effect of different turfgrass management options on its visual quality, sustainability and ecosystem services. They will gain knowledge on the biological mechanisms contributing to water and nitrogen use efficiency.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Desalegn Serba (des.serba@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: 2026. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for one year, but may be renewed upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience.

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens only.

ORISE Information: This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Questions: Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.ARS.PacificWest@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing a master's or doctoral

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degree in the one of the relevant fields.

Point of Contact [Janeen](#)

Eligibility • **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only

Requirements • **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree.

- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([10](#) )